



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

October 8, 2018

Ms. Anna Panossian
Director
Circuit Events Local Organizing Committee
100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1300
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Panossian:

As you know, the Circuit Events Local Organizing Committee has applied to receive funding under the Major Events Reimbursement Program ("MERP") for the 2018 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix. In a letter dated September 24, 2018, our office initially approved the establishment of a MERP fund for your event, subject to compliance with the requirements of Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat. Ann. art. 5190.14. Pursuant to article 5190.14, § 5A(a-1)(5) and (p), an event may receive funding through a MERP fund *only if* a human trafficking prevention plan is submitted to the Office of the Attorney General and the Texas Division of Emergency Management ("TDEM") no later than the 30th day before the first day of the event. This requirement is also clearly stated on the event application form and in our office's guidance document.

According to your event application, the U.S. Grand Prix is scheduled to begin on October 19th. But as you have since acknowledged, no human trafficking prevention plan was submitted until October 3rd. TDEM has also confirmed that it received no human trafficking prevention plan until that date. The submission for this event was thus not in compliance with the statutory condition for funding referenced above. Therefore, based on the plain language of that statute, the 2018 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix is not eligible for funding under the MERP due to the failure to timely submit the required human trafficking prevention plan. For that reason, the September 24th application approval letter is hereby rescinded.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Daniel".

Bryan Daniel
Executive Director
Economic Development & Tourism

BD: gc